Archaeological Methods--The Bufflap house was removed from the site on October 21, 1977, allowing for the first look at the section beneath the house. The master grid for the block was extended to the area and a 30 foot square was laid out above the feature. Topsoil and refuse overburden were removed from the cellar using 10 foot squares for horizontal control. The topsoil was not screened and artifacts were removed by visual inspection of the soil as it was shovelled. The most important discovery of the stripping phase was that the cellar was considerably larger than had been expected. Rather than falling within the 15 by 15 foot estimate, it was discovered that the feature extended southward to the southern wall of the Bufflap house--a total length of 35 feet. This drastic change in the scope of the excavation necessarily led to revision in the planned methods. The most critical of these changes was to remove the fill by shovel rather than trowel. Even with this more rapid method for fill removal, time constraints imposed by construction scheduling resulted in the entire excavation time being spent working on the cellar with no time allowed to locate structural evidence for the cellar's superstructure.

After exposure, the cellar and intrusive features were mapped (Fig. 14). All intrusive features were removed and the cellar was subdivided into six unequal segments for excavation. The unequal lots were chosen in order to maintain balks free of modern intrusions and to avoid placing a balk over possible cross walls. As the excavation proceeded it was noted that the central section was far too large to be efficiently managed. To resolve this difficulty, the western side of the central area was divided into two units, thus providing tighter horizontal control. Soil was removed as closely as possible by natural stratigraphic levels so that a chronology for the cellar's backfilling could be established. As the soil was shovelled from the units it was visually sorted for large artifacts and then transported to a series of screens for water screening. Though the screening process consumed time and provided the major difficulty in the excavation, the method resulted in the recovery of virtually all artifacts larger than one-fourth inch. Time constraints near the end of the project precluded screening of material from the balks.

Introduction to the Analysis

In the archaeology of historic structures there are fundamentally four sources of data: historical, architectural, archaeological, and artifactual. The historical data were discussed in some detail in Chapter II, and need not be reiterated. Architectural data concern information available about the actual structural remains of the building--including evidence of construction methods, renovations, and materials. These data are supplemented with architectural analogy. The archaeological data are derived from